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FM AMEMBASSY RIYADH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1269
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

S E C R E T RIYADH 000963

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/14/2019
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGPV](#) [KPAL](#) [PTER](#) [IS](#) [SA](#)
SUBJECT: COUNTDOWN TO FATAH 6TH PARTY CONGRESS

REF: A. STATE 71829
[1](#)B. RIYADH 962

Classified By: CDA Ambassador Richard Erdman, 1.4 (b),(d)

[1](#)1. (S) Reftel instructed Post to seek Saudi government perspectives on the upcoming Fatah 6th Party Congress.

[1](#)2. (S) Charge raised the issue in a July 20 meeting with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Nizar Madani (ref B), and Poloffs discussed the matter separately with MFA Head of Palestinian Affairs Abdullah al-Hamdan. Neither Madani nor al-Hamdan had much to say about the Congress, though al-Hamdan agreed with Poloffs' assertions that a democratic, fair, and transparent process for choosing Fatah leadership was desirable, that Hamas should not be allowed to interfere with the Congress, and that it was important for Fatah to develop a political program favoring peace and rule of law, including a two-state solution, without endorsing armed resistance.

ERDMAN